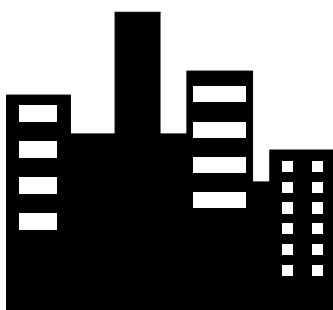


Evacuation III — Evacuating High-Rise Buildings

Actions Recommended for Boards of Directors and Managers of High-Rise Buildings

Retain a reputable engineering firm to inspect the building and foundation to determine if the building can withstand the erosion and battering of water, wind and waves that a hurricane brings. If the foundation is safe and the building is sound, then residents can consider staying unless local safety officials recommend evacuation. If the safety of the building is in doubt, then all occupants must plan on going to a shelter. If your building is structurally sound it may be used for vertical evacuation.



Organize a group of responsible residents to develop a plan that will:

- Provide for monitoring the hurricane's course by use of the information from NOAA Weather Radio and local officials.
- Secure grounds by setting up guidelines for the safety of cars and boats.
- Provide for emergency power that will function in case the storm surge floods the building.
- Make certain that elevators are not operated during the storm.
- Locate a safe area for the occupants to congregate, encouraging them to stay away from windows and to wedge patio doors to prevent the vibration from ripping them loose.
- Consider a provision for sheltering other people who are in the area and might be trapped when evacuation routes are closed by the effects of the approaching hurricane.
- Provide each floor with a floor captain or captains who have been educated in hurricane preparedness and evacuation procedures and are able to instruct the occupants of their floor on what to do in the event of a hurricane.

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Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
Document DH-020,
IFAS Disaster Handbook for
Extension Agents (developed
by the Cooperative Extension
Service for the benefit of
Florida's citizens)

Actions Recommended to Residents in High-Rise Buildings

- Know who your floor captain is; listen to his/her suggestions.
- Be familiar with the location of all exit stairways. Count how many steps you are from your door to the exit door in case the lights are out in the hall.
- Do not use the elevator; it will be needed for disabled residents.
- Predetermine a location outside the buildings for members of your family to meet if asked to evacuate.
- Rehearse your evacuation plan; it may save lives during a hurricane threat.
- Remove all loose items from your terrace or patio.
- Close and lock all windows, sliding glass doors and shutters. If you do not have shutters, tape the glass in an "X" fashion with cloth-backed tape. Glass that is coated with a plastic sunscreen is already somewhat protected.